MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

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RURAL DISTRICT OF WADEBRIDGE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1967.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

S.D. Crowle, M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D.J. Trebilcocok, M.P.H.I.A.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1967.

I GENERAL STATISTICS

Registrar General's Estimate of Mid Year Population		14,880
Area in Acres		87,964
Number of Inhabited Houses		6,125
Rateable Value		£425,359
Product of Penny Rate		£1,728
Camparability Factors	Deaths	0.81
	Births	1.11

II VITAL STATISTICS

Births

	Number of Live Births, 1967		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	97	110	207
Illegitimate	9	9	18
	106	119	225

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15. 1
Birth Rate for England and Wales	17. 2
Comparable Birth Rate	16.70

Stillbirths

Four still-births were recorded - 1 male and 3 female giving Stillbirth rate of 17 per 1,000 total births. The rate for England and Wales for 1967 is 14.8

Deaths

Number of Deaths Registered 1967		
Male	Female	Total
105	93	198

Crude death rate per 1,000 population	13. 3
Death Rate for England and Wales	11. 2
Comparable death rate	10.77

Infant Deaths

One infant death was registered during 1967, occuring in the first week of life.

Distribution of Deaths by Cause and Age and Sex.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks 1 year	1-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Heart Disease	*M	32	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	5	18
	*F	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	29
Cerebro Vascular Disease	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	4
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6
Cancer	M	23	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	7	10
	F	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	6
Respiratory Diseases	M	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	6	5
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4
Accident	M	6	-	-	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other Causes	M	19	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	7	9
	F	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	2	11
TOTAL	M	105	1	-	3	3	-	4	4	15	30	46
	F	93	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	11	18	58

*M Male *F Female

The figures show that 52% of all deaths occurred over 75 years of age, males faring worse at 43% against females at 62%. Deaths over 65 years were 76% of the total.

III GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

HOSPITAL SERVICES The majority of hospital admissions were made to the Truro Hospitals, Treliske and the City Hospital, with the exception of midwifery and gynaecological cases which were admitted to the Redruth Miners' and General Hospital some 35 miles distant. The new unit at Treliske will bring these services about 10 miles nearer. A few normal midwifery cases were admitted to the unit in St. Austell. Outpatient facilities for most specialities were available at the East Cornwall Hospital, Bodmin. The St. Lawrence's Hospital, Bodmin, caters both for admissions and out-patients, for the mentally ill.

Laboratory Services The Public Health Laboratory Service at Truro serves the area for routine bacteriological work, and has a daily collecting service from the St. Lawrence's Hospital.

Local Health Authority Services

Ambulance Service This service is provided chiefly from the Main Station in Bodmin, all vehicles being radio-controlled. Additional support is given by voluntary ambulance units situated in Wadebridge and Padstow. Sitting cases are conveyed in Utilecons, or by Voluntary Hospital Cars. The service was adequate during the year.

Home Nursing, Health Visiting and Midwifery Service The District is served by six District Nurse-Health Visitor-Midwives, assisted by two general duty nurses. One hundred and one domiciliary confinements were conducted during the year. The home-nursing and health visitor care was adequate.

Home Help Service Domestic help is provided for the sick and elderly through the agency of the Womens Royal Voluntary Service Organiser.

Infant Welfare The Centre at Brooklyn, Wadebridge, continued in use twice each month. The average attendance being 30. Advice on the care of infants and young children is available, together with the full range of immunisations.

Vaccination and Immunisation Proptection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox was available at the surgeries of general practitioners or at the Infant Welfare centre. Reinforcing doses were offered at school, and protection against tuberculosis (B.C.G.) was given to entrants of Secondary Schools.

Other facilities available at County Council premises, Brooklyn, include a thriving Playgroup, a very active Mothers' Club, Family Planning and Cervical Cytology clinics. Speech therapy, School dental clinics, school orthopaedic and ophthalmic clinics, and an outpatient clinic for maternity and gynaecology were also available in the premises.

IV SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies

Houses Supplied with a Piped Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Total Houses	Connected	Not Connected
St. Mabyn	490	182	126	56
St. Tudy	465	167	99	68
Egloshayle	362	128	51	77
Lanivet	1077	377	258	119
St. Breock	681	235	156	79
St. Issey	618	242	163	79
St. Ervan	292	120	81	39
St. Eval	777	432	383	49
Lanhydrock	166	50	-	50
Cardinham	432	165	62	103
Withiel	275	97	91	6
Wadebridge	3335	1256	1250	6
St. Minver Lowlands	1214	547	505	42
St. Minver Highlands	807	399	388	11
St. Endellion	1179	542	512	30
St. Kew	826	318	253	65
Blisland	502	185	90	95
Helland	1213	73	34	39
St. Merryn	1169	535	485	50
Totals	14880	6050	4987	1063

Note:- Population for Parishes estimated on basis of Electors Lists.

All parishes with the exception of Lanhydrock are supplied with piped water by the North and Mid Cornwall Water Board. Isolated farms and groups of houses still rely upon private wells, boreholes or springs. Most of the Rural District is supplied from the Board's De Lank source, where extensions were completed during the year, raising the works capacity by 0.75 million gallons per day to 2 millions. The addition of vertical flow sedimentation tanks and improved methods of chemical handling has resulted in improved quality of the treated water. The four original filters installed in 1954 were found to require overhaul. The original trunk main, which was designed to rigid economy standards is no longer able to carry the full output of the works. Duplication of the main from Hantergantick to Wenford Bridge is planned for 1968, and further duplication will follow in subsequent years. These improvements will allow the elimination of the local supplies for Wadebridge town which are acid and give rise to blue discolouration when the water passes through new copper pipes.

The area north of the Camel Estuary continues to be supplied from the Board's Crowdy Brook source during the winter, augmented from the De Lank supply during the summer. The construction of a direct abstaction inpounding reservoir at Crowdy has been delayed by legal difficulties in acquiring land. Improved supplies to St. Minver Highlands has been achieved by a new 6" main between Polzeath and Trebetherick, together with renewal of old gavanised pipes. The spring supply at Polzeath has been eliminated. A further 6" mains extension is planned to improve the distribution in Rock.

The Board submitted 173 samples of water for bacteriological analysis, of which 165 proved to be sterile. The remaining eight scattered as individual samples over the year showed minor evidence of contamination, but were of no serious significance.

The Public Health Department submitted 70 samples of water for bacteriological examination, 40 of which were satisfactory. Thirty were shown to be contaminated and all were from private sources. The users were advised to boil their drinking water until such time as the source could be improved, or an alternative supply obtained.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal New sewerage systems with modern treatment works were completed in the parishes of St. Merryn (part), Blisland and St. Issey. The works at St. Merryn treat the sewage by partial extended aeration, the effluent passing directly to a sea-outfall. At Blisland complete extended aeration is given and the effluent is discharged to a stream. The St. Issey system has the standard form of works with sedimentation tanks, sludge drying, and biological treatment of effluent. All these works have operated satisfactorily since they were installed. Some owners of properties are still unwilling to connect to the main sewers. Fortunately, the majority of those who had previously defective systems have now joined.

Other schemes in the course of preparation are for St. Minver Lowlands, Port Isaac and Wadebridge. Work may commence on the first of these during the current year. Sewrage systems are still required for St. Minver Highlands, St. Mabyn and St. Tudy, Trelights, Amble, Nanstallon and Rumford.

Refuse Collection and Disposal This service was reasonably satisfactory during the year. The heaviest demands made upon it occur during the summer months, when hotels, caravan and camping sites and shops create increased volumes of refuse, much of it combustible. The waste is disposed of at the Council's tip at Treworder, a site well situated from a nuisance point of view. The provision of adequate covering material makes complete control quite difficult, and the high proportion of burnable material makes fire almost inevitable. The Rural District, enveloping as is does the Borough of Bodmin, has caused me to think many times whether some mutual help may be gained by providing a single service for both Authorities.

Rodent Control The Council employed one rodent operator, in conjunction with Padstow Urban District Council. Treatment of domestic premisss is free, but a charge is made for the treatment of all business premises.

		Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	5305	912
2. a.	Total Number of properties inspected following notifications	512	67
b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	322	67
	(ii) Mice	190	--
3. a.	Total number of properties inspected otherwise than notification	371	51
b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	122	49
	(ii) Mice	245	--

The treatment of sewers and refuse tips was carried out as a matter of routine.

Caravan Sites Control of Development Act, 1960

The number of licensed caravan sites increases slowly each year. The number of un-licensed sites created for the holiday season grows rapidly, so much so that reasonable supervision by the department becomes impossible. The total number of caravans expressed in the figures represents the premitted numbers on authorised sites and upon which the sanitary provisions are based.

On some sites these approved numbers are frequently exceeded, and services prove to be inadequate. The supervision of tented sites is similarly inadequate. The number of licensed sites in 1967 was 2. One only has to take a cursory look around the district during the summer to appreciate how unrealistic this figure is. Many sites are used for considerable periods for tourists camping in tents, without any sanitary provisions whatever. There can be no cofusion in the sanitary needs of people whether in caravans or tents, but there is a considerable difference in the law relating to these classes.

a) Number of Site Licences Operating during 1967.

	Residential	Holiday
a) Individual	74	12
b) Multiple (more than 3)	2	26
Total Number of Caravans	97	1740

Eight breaches of site licence conditions were remedied informally during the year.

b) Tented Camping Sites

Number of licensed sites as at 31st December, 1967	2
Number of tent pitches	60
Number of unlicensed sites in regular use	13
Approximate number of tent pitches	175

V FOOD AND DRUGS

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

Number of Premises serving food:-

Grocers, Greengrocers, Fishmongers	81
Butchers	13
Cafes and Restaurants	31
Hotels	54

In additon there are innumerable Boarding Houses, holiday accommodation and bed and breakfast establisments which are beyond the department's supervision.

The number of inspections carried out on food preparing premises was 184. The employment of large numbers of unskilled food handlers during the season unaware of the simples requirements of careful food handling, and often at extremely low rates of pay gives rise to some concern. Fortunately large quantities of retailed food are now prepacked.

In addition to the routine inspection of shops, cafes and hotels the following circulars were distributed:-

a) 10 point code for Food Trade Workers and Housewives.
b) Advice on the Retailing of Fresh Meat Pies, Cooked Meats and Fresh Sausages.

During the year all owners of Stalls and Delivery Vehicles were sent a pamphlet, giving details of the requirements of the above regulations, and advice has been given on compliance with the regulations. Inspection of the delivery vehicles is being carried out as time permits, and it has been found that the provision of wash hand basin, water supply and first aid materials is proceeding.

Milk Supplies The County Council are the supervising authority for the sale of milk. The Rural District registers distributors only, of whom there are 60. The bulk of milk distributed is pasteurised, though a portion is raw from tuberculin tested herds. This grade of milk is obviously open to the risk of transmitting brucellosis from infected cows. The District was invited to take part in a brucellosis survey during the year. Volunteers who numbered just over 100 submitted themselves to skin tests, and 2 blood samples to detect the existence of circulating antibodies associated with previous infection. Only one subject produced any suggestive evidence of recent infection, a young farm worker who would be at special risk. The inference from this small mixed sample is that brucellosis is relatively uncommon amongst the resident population. In fact only two cases have been reported to me in the past 20 years, and one of these was acquired abroad.

The department has been involved in a County wide survey of cream. There is as yet no official bacteriological standard established for cream. Samples were also submitted for brucella organisms, which might be present in untreated cream. No positive results were obtained from the 53 submitted.

Ice Cream The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream was 95, the majority retailing the prepacked product. Samples were taken from those retailing "loose" ice cream with the following results:-

Grade	1	2	3	4
Number	16	10	18	2

Grades 3 and 4 indicate unhygenic methods of serving or storing ice cream. During the current year more supervision of the facilities for serving ice cream is being given.

Sausages and Cooked Meats

Number of premises registered for the preparation and sale of suusages and cooked meats was 16.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no pasteurising plants in the district but one sample of liquid egg was submitted from a bakery. The result was satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

There are 4 licenced slaughterhouses in the area, at which regular slaughtering takes place. Most of the animals are killed and inspected during normal working hours and it has not been necessary to make any order specifying the days and times at which slaughtering may take place. All carcasses and offal are inspected, prior to removal from the slaughterhouse and stamped when found to be satisfactory. Six contraventions of the Slaughterhouse Regulations were remedied informally.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excl cows)	Cattle Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1886	410	112	4833	9542
Number Inspected	1886	410	112	4833	9542
All diseases except cysticercosis & tuberculosis					
a) Whole carcass condemned	8	6	14	100	28
b) Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	302	114	6	222	1260
Tuberculosis only:					
a) Whole carcass condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
b) Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Cysticercosis only:					
a) Whole carcass condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
b) Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	13	2	NIL	NIL	NIL
Gross weight of meat condemned (in lbs.)	9508	4820	812	10397	7911

Poultry Inspection

One poultry processing factory was found to be operating in the district, in buildings not entirely suitable for the purpose. After some discussion and suggestion for necessary improvements, the business transferred to other premises within the Borough of Bodmin.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Total number of premises registered at 31st December, 1967	168
Total number of premises to receive a genral inspection	35
Total number of visits to registered premises	118

Of the 35 premises inspected during 1967, defects were found as follows:

a)	Inadequate heating appliances	14
b)	Inadequate sanitary accommodation	1
c)	Inadequate washing facilities	6
d)	Insufficient seats or clothing accommodation	3
e)	Defective floor or stairs	1
f)	Lack of first aid facilities	5

Number of accidents reported and investigated NIL

All but two properties have now received a general inspection and owners or occupiers notified of defects to be remedied.

VI FACTORIES

Number of registered factories in Area	57
Number of Inspections	40

One new factory for Boat Building was erected and brought into use during the year, at St. Minver.

VII HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Eleven houses were closed as unfit for human habitation under the Housing Act, 1957. Nine families were rehoused from these dwellings. Four unfit houses were improved to a standard to allow re-occupation and the undertakings not to relet were cancelled.

Improvement Grants

Thirty four standard grants to the value of £7,107. 6s. 0d. were approved, and 4 discretionary grants to the value of £675.

Council Houses

The Council have 798 dwellings of which 28 are of prefabricated type. 80 of this total are still without one or more standard amenities, i.e., Bath, Wash Basin, Hot Water Supply, Food Store or internal Water Closet.

Private Housing

Ninety two dwellings were built by private enterprise during the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Meat Inspection	993
Improvement Grants	129
Caravan and Camping Sites	114
Shops, Cafes and Hotels	184
House Inspections and Slum Clearance	149
Water Supplies and Samples	145
Ice Cream, Cream, Milk and Other Foods	90
Factories	40
Drainage General	150
Drainage Nuisance	87
Nuisances General	40
Condemned Foods	13
General	131
	2265

VIII PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1967

Measles	167
Pulmonary T.B.	2
Non Pulmonary T.B.	2
Scarlet Fever	14

One hundred and sixty of the total measles cases were notified in the first quarter of the year. The notified cases of scarlet fever represented a few of the mild cases with a fleeting rash and were obviously part of a much more widely distributed infection by haemoltyic streptococcus.

Although the existence of gastro enteritis was rumoured especially during the holiday season, no specific outbreaks of food poisoning were reported.

The usual round of tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination took place with a good acceptance. The incidence of significant positive results was small.

Protective inoculations against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis continued to be given at surgeries and the Infant Welfare Centre. The proportion of children born in 1966, fully protected in 1967 were:-

Triple Vaccine (Diptheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough)	81.2%
Polimyelitis	83%
Smallpox	9.1%

In conclusion: may I thank Mr. Crowle, and Mr. Worraker for contributing to this report, and my appreciation to all the members of the Council and staff for their support.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN REED.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS - 1967.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	40	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	57	40	Nil	Nil

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	0	1	0
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a. Insufficient	2	2	Nil	1	Nil
b. Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
c. Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	2	2	0	1	0

OUTWORK.

Section 133				Section 134		
Nature of Work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No of instances of work in unwhole-some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel) Making etc.) Cleaning and Washing	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil